

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 82377

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Simon Charles GILLIGAN

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: February 12, 2002

For: FIBRE-OPTIC CONNECTOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examining on the merits and calculating the filing fee for the application filed herewith, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10, as attached with this preliminary amendment.

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims and to conform them to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added. Pursuant to the new rules implementing the AIPA, a clean copy of the amended claims is attached, Attachment A, along with a marked-up copy, Attachment B, of the claims indicating the proposed claim amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

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Preliminary Amendment

ATTACHMENT A - CLEAN COPY

In the claims:

3. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1, in which the plunger means included fibre-engaging resilient means.

5. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1, further including a ferrule at the front end, the ferrule carrying an optical fibre as a stub having a distal end flush with the front face of the ferrule and a proximal end extending from the rear face of the ferrule and terminating in an alignment tube coaxial with the channel means of the internal core member.

7. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1, in which the plunger means comprises a compression head which is directly activatable to reduce the volume of the chamber and apply pressure to the adhesive therein.

8. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1, in which the plunger means is indirectly activatable and comprises a compression head within the housing and a co-operating activation member which extends from the housing and which is manually movable to cause the compression head reduce the chamber volume.

10. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1, in which the plunger means includes means cooperable with the housing to maintain the compression head in the inner position.

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ATTACHMENT B - MARKED-UP COPY

In the claims:

3. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 [or claim 2], in which the plunger means included fibre-engaging resilient means.

5. (Amended) A connector according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, further including a ferrule at the front end, the ferrule carrying an optical fibre as a stub having a distal end flush with the front face of the ferrule and a proximal end extending from the rear face of the ferrule and terminating in an alignment tube coaxial with the channel means of the internal core member.

7. (Amended) A connector according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, in which the plunger means comprises a compression head which is directly activatable to reduce the volume of the chamber and apply pressure to the adhesive therein.

8. (Amended) A connector according to [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, in which the plunger means is indirectly activatable and comprises a compression head within the housing and a co-operating activation member which extends from the housing and which is manually movable to cause the compression head reduce the chamber volume.

10. (Amended) A connector according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, in which the plunger means includes means cooperable with the housing to maintain the compression head in the inner position.